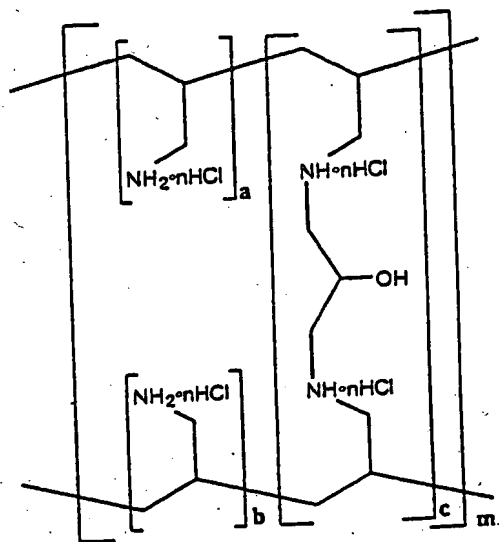


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-9 and 11-28 without prejudice or disclaimer and enter the following new claims:

29. (New) A phosphate-binding polymer of the formula:



wherein the molar ratio of (a + b) to c is from 45:1 to 2:1 and m is an integer, and which phosphate-binding polymer has a true specific gravity of 1.2-1.22.

30. (New) The phosphate-binding polymer according to claim 29 wherein the molar ratio of (a + b):c is from 20:1 to 4:1.

31. (New) A tablet comprising particles of a phosphate-binding polymer having an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by

particles no larger than 500 microns, and having a true specific gravity of 1.20-1.22 and a water content of 1-14%.

32. (New) The tablet according to claim 31 wherein said particles of a phosphate-binding polymer have an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300 microns.

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33. (New) The tablet according to claim 31 which further contains at least one of crystalline cellulose and low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

34. (New) The tablet according to claim 33 wherein the content of the crystalline cellulose or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose is at least 10 wt% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer.

35. (New) The tablet according to claim 33 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 wt% substitution by hydroxypropoxyl groups.

36. (New) The tablet according to any of claims 31-35 wherein the phosphate-binding polymer is one that is obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on polyallylamine in a

water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system so that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.

37. (New) The tablet according to claim 31 wherein further contains a hardened oil.

38. (New) The tablet according to claim 31 which is coated on the surface with a water-soluble film base.

39. (New) A process for producing a phosphate-binding polymer tablets comprising:

grinding a phosphate-binding polymer having a true specific gravity of 1.20-1.22 into particles having an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500 microns, said phosphate-binding polymer being either polyallylamine or obtained by crosslinking the same;

b. Adjusting the phosphate-binding polymer particles to a water content of 1-14%;

c. Mixing the particles with at least one of crystalline cellulose and low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose; and

d. Compressing the mixture into tablets.

40. (New) The process according to claim 39 wherein said phosphate-binding polymer is ground into particles having an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300 microns.

41. (New) A tablet comprising the phosphate-binding polymer of claim 29.

42. (New) The tablet according to claim 40 wherein the polymer has an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 500 microns, and with a water content of 1-14%.

43. (New) The tablet according to claim 41 wherein the polymer has an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 300 microns.

44. (New) The tablet according to claim 40 which further contains a component selected from the group consisting of crystalline cellulose, low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

45. (New) The tablet according to claim 44 wherein the content of the component is at least 10% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer.

46. (New) The tablet according to claim 44 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 weight % substitution by hydroxy groups.

47. (New) The tablet according to claim 40 which further contains a hardened oil.

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48. (New) The tablet according to claim 40 which is coated with a water-soluble film base.

49. (New) The tablet according to claim 40 wherein the phosphate-binding polymer is one that is obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on polyallylamine in a water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system so that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.

50. (New) The phosphate-binding polymer according to claim 29 which has an average particle size of no more than 400 microns with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500 microns, and a water content of 1-14%.